

MEMORANDUM ON PHYSICAL EDUCATION WAIVERS

Elementary and Middle Schools

The physical education waivers listed in Section 1003.455, Florida Statutes, will apply to both elementary and middle school students beginning with the 2009-2010 school year. Students in grades K-8 are eligible to waive the physical education requirement if they meet any of the following criteria:

1. The student is enrolled or required to enroll in a remedial course.
2. The student's parent indicates in writing to the school that:
 - a. The parent requests that the student enroll in another course from among those courses offered as options by the school district; or
 - b. The student is participating in physical activities outside the school day which are equal to or in excess of the mandated requirement.

Students in kindergarten through fifth grade are required to complete at least 150 minutes of physical activity per week in blocks of at least 30 consecutive minutes. Beginning in the 2009-2010 school year, middle school students must enroll in a P.E. class for at least one semester annually.

The bill defines PE as "the development and maintenance of skills related to strength, agility, flexibility, movement, and stamina, including dance; the development of knowledge and skills regarding teamwork and fair play; the development of knowledge and skills regarding nutrition and physical fitness as part of a healthy lifestyle; and the development of positive attitudes regarding sound nutrition and physical activity as a component of personal well-being."

Updated Information on new High School Physical Education Requirement

Using the guiding principles of (1) what is good for Florida students, and (2) providing districts with flexibility, a decision was made to amend the current Physical Education high school graduation requirement. The amendment is as follows:

Districts may choose from three options for students entering ninth grade 2007-2008 to fulfill their Physical Education graduation requirement:

Option 1: Students must take ½ credit in Physical Education and ½ credit in Personal Fitness (Teacher Certification requirements: Physical Education)

Option 2: Students must take the one credit HOPE Core course (Teacher Certification requirements: Physical Education and Health Education co-teaching the class or a single teacher who is dually certified)

Option 3: Students must take the one credit HOPE Physical Education Variation course (Teacher Certification requirement: Physical Education)

Updated information on Reinstated Waiver language for Physical Education

Based on the updated Physical Education graduation requirements, Senate Bill 2092 reinstated waiver language associated with Physical Education. The application of waivers is as follows:

- If the district has chosen the Personal Fitness/Physical Education activity elective courses to fulfill the High School Physical Education graduation requirement, then the following waivers apply:
 1. Participation in two seasons of an interscholastic sport AND a passing grade of “C” on the Personal Fitness Competency test replaces both the .5 credit requirement in Personal Fitness and the .5 credit requirement in a Physical Education activity elective for a total of 1 credit in Physical Education.
 2. Completion of one semester of Marching Band with a passing grade of “C” replaces the .5 credit of the Physical Education activity elective. The student must still take the Personal Fitness class (.5 credit) to complete the 1 credit in Physical Education.
 3. Participation in a Dance class satisfies the .5 credit of the Physical Education activity elective. The student must still take the Personal Fitness class (.5 credit) to complete the 1 credit in Physical Education.
 4. Completion of two years in a Reserve Officer Training Corps (R.O.T.C.) class satisfies 1 credit of the Physical Education activity electives. However, the student must still take the Personal Fitness class (.5 credit) to satisfy the Physical Education graduation requirement in those districts choosing this option. Students using the ROTC waiver will end up with 1.5 credits in Physical Education.

- If the district has chosen the Health Opportunities through Physical Education (HOPE) or the HOPE-PE Variation course requirements to fulfill the Physical Education graduation requirement, the following waivers apply:
 1. Participation in two seasons of an interscholastic sport AND a passing grade of “C” on the Personal Fitness Competency test satisfies the 1 credit Physical Education requirement.
 2. Completion of two years in a Reserve Officer Training Corps (R.O.T.C.) class satisfies the 1 credit Physical Education requirement.

Questions concerning physical education requirements and waivers should be directed to Nichole Wilder at nichole.wilder@fldoe.org or to Frank E Waller at frank.waller@jcsb.org